

Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)



**NIFA Veterinary Medicine
Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

National Institute of Food and Agriculture
US Department of Agriculture
OMB Information Collection
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Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)

Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.

Veterinary Shortage ID Code: MN116

Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: A 60 mile radius area around Benson in west central Minnesota including Big Stone, Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Lac qui Parle, Pope, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Yellow Medicine Counties and portions of Stearns, Todd, and Renville Counties

(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or

Location of Position:

Benson, Minnesota 56215

(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty

☒ Type I Shortage: Private Practice

Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☒ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other _____

☐ Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area

Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)

Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- ☐ Beef Cattle
- ☐ Dairy Cattle
- ☐ Swine
- ☐ Poultry
- ☐ Small Ruminant
- ☐ Other : _____

☐ Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time*)

Employer: _____ Position Title: _____

Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- ☐ Food Safety
- ☐ Public Health
- ☐ Epidemiology
- ☐ Other: _____

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives for this a veterinarian would be:

- 1) provide veterinary support for the swine industry in central Minnesota at 80% of a full time veterinarian (32 hrs/week)
- 2) serve as a source of expertise / leadership for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) control in swine
- 3) evaluate imported swine for general health or diseases of concern
- 4) educate producers on biosecurity practices, disease prevention, appropriate use of animal pharmaceuticals, and animal husbandry
- 5) provide accurate and reliable regulatory documents as needed by producers maintaining a Type 2 veterinary accreditation.
- 6) have a working knowledge of state reportable and foreign animal diseases
- 7) serve as a local resource for information on food animal medicine and related public health issues and provide expertise and advise local groups on these topics

Private practitioners play a key role in controlling disease in livestock in Minnesota, helping producers stay in business and maintaining a vibrant rural economy. Minnesota is the 4th largest swine producing state in the nation and the State's ability to stay competitive in this industry will depend on our ability to control PRRS. This position will play an important role at the production level to control this disease.

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

A major activity of a veterinarian working in this role will be disease control and surveillance. This person will also provide diagnostic interpretation and management recommendations to prevent, control and eliminate PRRS and function as a coordinator for disease communication and efforts. This position is extremely necessary since the efforts to control and eliminate PRRS are completely voluntary requiring a bigger involvement by private practitioners. The veterinarian in this position will be the first line of observation/contact for producers for PRRS in Central Minnesota and will also assist in general herd health initiatives. The veterinarian will also participate in statewide discussions on pig health surveillance, response, research and policy issues.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

The industry has developed programs to identify, encourage and help students (in and out-of-state) in becoming swine veterinarians. These programs have been partially successful to attract veterinarians to the swine industry but not to rural areas. In addition, veterinarians graduate with significant debt (>\$150K) which is difficult to pay back with starting salaries of 60-70K. Because of the specialized nature, the industry still encounters challenges in attracting young professionals to central areas of Minnesota.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Pork production in Minnesota represents six billion dollars in the state's economy. Despite this significant economic contribution, there are unmet veterinary needs in central Minnesota. Approval of this nomination would provide an incentive for recruiting, hiring, or retaining a veterinarian to support the swine industry in central Minnesota. Veterinarians often have to travel more than 100 miles a day to reach producers and lack of local veterinary leadership negatively impacts disease control and producer cooperation. Enhanced disease surveillance and control, and implementation of disease elimination and health programs are crucial to control PRRS in Central Minnesota for sustainable pork production. Inability to secure this position will result in the lack of producer's ability to firmly expand efforts to control and eliminate PRRS. These needs were recently magnified by the voluntary efforts to control PRRS disease from the region. PRRS cost the US pork industry more than \$530 million dollars annually and efforts have been initiated by producers and private veterinarians to control and eliminate the virus. The efforts to control PRRS in Minnesota will impact the rest of the US since Minnesota is the poster child for this initiative.

A safe and sustainable U.S. food supply depends on good animal health. The impact of health services on producers sustainability and food safety has never been more critical and an adequate supply of food animal veterinarians is crucial in this area.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a “service in emergency” agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the “Service in Emergency” agreement. Not applicable for this nomination cycle.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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State Veterinarian and Executive Director of the
Title: Board of Animal Health

Organization: Minnesota Board of Animal Health

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